Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067050
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DR-*TED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:PS
APPROVED BY AF/WESCHAUFELE
AF/E:RSPOST
S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN
----------261816Z 127505 /40
R 252333Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 067050

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR, SO, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOMALI APPROACH TO USG CONCERNING POSSIBLE
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. ON MARCH 24 SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS WILLIAM SCHAUFELE TO DISCUSS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 067050

THE FUTURE OF US/SOMALI RELATIONS. ADDOU'S CALL WAS MADE
ON INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE THE GSDR WAS RETHINKING ITS OPTIONS
IN THE LIGHT OF ITS CONCERN OVER GROWING RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

2. ADDOU SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE
DIFFICULTY WHICH ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH NEWLY-SOCIALIST

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ETHIOPIA CAUSED SOMALIA AND HAD PROPOSED AS A SOLUTION A SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN/ERITREAN FEDERATION, EVENTUALLY TO INCLUDE DJIBOUTI. THE SOMALIS HAD REPLIED THAT THEY WOQLD CONSIDER THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ONLY IF THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER THE OGADEN WERE RESOLVED FIRST. SIAD WAS UNWILLING TO SACRIFICE SOMALIA'S SELF INTEREST, EVEN TO FELLOW SOCIALISTS LIKE THE SOVIET UNION AND ETHIOPIA. THE SOMALIS NOW BELIEVED THAT THE OVERRIDING SOVIET CONCERN WAS THE STABILIZATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME AND ADDOU HAD NOTED THAT SOME SOVIET ADVISORS IN SOMALIA HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ETHIOPIA.

3. ADDOU EXPLAINED THE SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR ETHIOPIA IN PART BECAUSE THEY DOUBTED SIAD'S COMMITMENT TO MARXISM, GIVEN HIS ISLAMIC FAITH AND THE NATURE OF THE SOMALI MENTALITY.

4. ADDOU CONFIRMED THAT THE SAUDIS HAD APPROACHED THE SOMALIS TO OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF THE SOMALIS REDUCED THE SOVIET POSITION IN SOMALIA. FOR SOMALIA TO REDUCE ITS TIES TO THE SOVIETS, IT MUST HAVE AVAILABLE RELIABLE ALTERNATE SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPLIES. THE SAUDIS, OF COURSE, ARE NOT ARMS PRODUCERS THOUGH THEIR FINANCING COULD BE USED FOR ARMS PURCHASES. THE ONLY NATION WITH THE RESOURCES TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE USSR AS SOMALIA'S ARMS SUPPLIER IS THE U.S. ADDOU WAS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO ASK WHETHER SOMALIA COULD COUNT ON THE U.S. FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PARTICULARLY ASSURED ACCESS TO AMERICAN MILITARY SUPPLIES IF THE GSDR WERE TO REVISE





ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

5. SCHAUFELE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE WERE CONCERNED BY THE GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT IN THE HORN AND FUTURE OF DJIBOUTI. WE WERE ENGAGED IN A POLICY ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RESTUDYING THE ENTIRE ARMS TRANSFER QUESTION. THEREFORE, AMBASSADOR ADDOU'S TIMELY CALL WOULD PERMIT US TO CONSIDER THIS SOMALI APPROACH IN OUR STUDIES. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF TRUE SOMALI NON-ALIGNMENT AND THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET FACILITIES IN SOMALIA. SCHAUFELE NOTED OUR AWARENESS THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN ENHANCED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPROV"MENT IN US-GSDR RELATIONS. HE AYSURED ADDOU THAT THE US WAS SINCERELY DESIROUS OF SUCH AN IMPROVEMENT, AND HE FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BAR TO RENEWED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, WE COULD NOT REPLY TO ADDOU'S QUESTION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNTIL THE CURRENT POLICY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

REVIEWS HAVE 0EEN COMPLETED.

6. ADDOU REPLIED THAT TIME WAS SHORT. PRESIDENT SIAD WAS NOW RECONSIDERING SOMALIA'S FUTURE AND ADDOU WAS RETURNING TO SOMALIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT RECONSIDERATION. HE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT REASSURANCE TO GIVE SIAD THE COURAGE TO MOVE FROM SOMALIA'S PRESENT COURSE, BUT HE DID NOT WANT TO RAISE FALSE HOPES.

7. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DIFFICULTY. WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY AMBASSADOR SEELYE'S CONVERSATIONS IN MOGADISCIO AND WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU'S

APPROACH HERE. WE HOPED THAT THESE FIRST STEPS MIGHT LEAD TO AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OUR REVIEW OF OUR POLICY IN THE HORN COULD BE COMPLETED AND THE RESULTS CONVEYED TO THE GSDR BEFORE THE COMPLETION

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OF SOMALIA'S OWN POLICY REVIEW.

8. LIBYA: ADDOU EXPLAINED LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA BY NOTING THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN MENGISTU AND QADDAFI: BOTH WERE YOUNG, HAD REVOLTED AGAINST CONSERVATIVE REGIMES, AND HAD A COMMON FOE IN NIMEIRI'S SUDAN.

9. KENYA: ADDOU MAINTAINED THAT RELATIONS WITH KENYA WERE EXCELLENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE DISPUTED BORDER BUT SAID THE ISSUE WAS NOT A PRESSING ONE SINCE THERE WAS NO HARASSMENT OF THE SOMALI POPULATION IN KENYA. BESIDES THE DISPUTE HAD BEEN CREATED BY GREAT BRITAIN, NOT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN NAIROBI.

10. FRANCE: ADDOU ALSO SAID THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS, NOT ON DJIBOUTI WHERE EVENTS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL. SEVERAL BILATERAL PROTOCOLS HAD BEEN SIGNED WITH THE FRENCH INCLUDING ONE PLEDGING CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

CHRISTOPHER

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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